

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, and 12-26 are pending in the application, claims 11 being canceled and claims 25 and 26 being newly added herein. Claims 1-8 were previously canceled. Claims 9, 15, 20, 25 and 26 are the only independent claims.

Claims Objections

Claim 11, 17, and 20 stand objected to by the Examiner on account of an informality, namely, a spelling that is inconsistent with the other claims pending in the application.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 11, 17, and 20, the latter two claims have been amended to make the spelling of the word "tyre" consistent with the other claims pending in the application. With respect to claim 11, that claim has been incorporated into claim 9, using the conforming spelling of the word "tyre."

Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to the claims has been met.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,149,060 to Meadows.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-14 contain allowable subject matter. In addition, the Examiner has allowed claims 15, 16, 18, and 19 and has indicated that claims 17 and 20-24 would be allowable if amended to overcome the objection made by the Examiner.

Claims 17 and 20 have been amended to overcome the objection made by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 15-24 are in allowable form.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11, which has been canceled. Inasmuch as amended claim 9 is equivalent to claim 11 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 9) and any intervening claims (none), claim 9 is patentable pursuant to the Examiner's indication.

Claim 25 is previously presented claim 12 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the previously presented base claim (claim 9) and any intervening claims (none). Claim 25 is allowable pursuant to the Examiner's indication.

Similarly, claim 26 is previously presented claim 13 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the previously presented base claim (claim 9) and any intervening claims (none). Claim 26 is also allowable pursuant to the Examiner's indication.


Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 9, 15, 20, 25 and 26, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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